

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method for producing a results list for a search query, the method comprising:  
 producing a first results list of entries from a search algorithm, the first results list  
 corresponding to a term in the search query, the first results list being ordered according  
 to relevance rankings;  
 modifying a feature of the first results lists by an editor, the modification being made  
 according to an editorial rule;  
 determining a reliability score for the editor, the reliability score being based upon the  
 modification made the editor;  
 combining the modification made by the editor in a combined search index, the  
 combined modification being included in the combined search index according to the  
 determined reliability of the editor; and  
 using the combined search index to produce a second results list which corresponds to  
 the term in the search query.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein producing a first results list includes producing a first  
 results list that corresponds to at least one search term.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying a feature according to an editorial rule  
 includes modifying any feature of the first results list.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying a feature according to an editorial rule  
 includes modifying an allowed changeable feature, the allowed changeable feature being  
 one or more of relevance ranking, entry addition, entry deletion and document summary.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein modifying a feature includes modifying a feature  
 within a pre-defined range or percentage.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein modifying an allowed changeable feature comprises  
 modifying a feature within a pre-defined range or percentage.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein determining a reliability score further comprises:

2 comparing a ranking change for an entry by a first editor to a median ranking change  
3 for the entry by a second editor.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein determining a reliability score further comprises:  
2 comparing a summary change for an entry to a previous summary contained in the  
3 first results list.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein determining a reliability score further comprises:  
2 determining a difference in a number or a percentage of click-throughs which result  
3 from the editor modification.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein combining the modification made by the editor  
2 further comprises:  
3 multiplying the reliability score by the feature modification.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein using the combined results to produce a second  
2 results list includes using the combined search index by a search engine.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein said method is performed at least twice.

1 13. A method for producing a results list for a search query, the method comprising:  
2 producing a first results list of entries from a search algorithm, the first results list  
3 corresponding to a term in a first search query, the first results list being ordered  
4 according to relevance rankings;  
5 modifying a feature of the first results lists by an editor, the modification being made  
6 according to an editorial rule;  
7 determining a reliability score for the editor, the reliability score being based upon the  
8 modification made the editor;  
9 combining the modification made by the editor in a combined search index, the  
10 combined modification being included in the combined search index according to the  
11 determined reliability of the editor;

12 detecting a difference between the feature contained in the first results list and the  
13 corresponding modified feature contained in the combined search index; and  
14 determining a rule that corresponds to the detected difference or similarity.

1 14. The method of claim 13 further comprises:

2 producing a second results list from the search algorithm, the second results list  
3 corresponding to the term in the first search query;  
4 modifying the second results lists by applying the rule to a feature contained in the  
5 second results list.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein detecting a difference further comprises:

2 detecting a change to a relevance ranking feature.

1 16. The method of claim 14 wherein detecting a difference further comprises:

2 detecting an added feature.

1 17. The method of claim 14 wherein detecting a difference further comprises:

2 detecting a deleted feature.

1 18. The method of claim 14 wherein detecting a difference further comprises:

2 detecting a change to a document summary feature.

1 19. A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a  
2 plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that  
3 processor to:

4 produce a first results list of entries from a search algorithm, the first results list  
5 corresponding to a term in a search query, the first results list being ordered according to  
6 relevance rankings;  
7 modify a feature of the first lists according to an editorial rule;  
8 determine a reliability score for the editorial modification, the reliability score being  
9 based upon the editorial modification;

10 combine the editorial modification in a combined search index, the combined  
11 modification being includes in the combined search index according to the reliability  
12 score of the editor; and

13 use the combined search index to produce a second results list which corresponds to  
14 the term in the search query.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the instructions causing a  
2 computer to modify a feature of the first lists according to an editorial rule further  
3 comprise instructions causing a computer to:

4 modify a feature according to an editorial rule.

1 21. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the instruction causing a  
2 computer to modify a feature according to an editorial rule further comprise instructions  
3 causing a computer to:

4 modify an allowed changeable feature, the allowed changeable feature being one or  
5 more of relevance ranking, entry addition, entry deletion and document summary.

1 22. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein the instructions causing a  
2 computer to determine a reliability score for the editorial modification further comprise  
3 instructions causing a computer to:

4 compare a ranking change for an entry by a first editor to a median ranking change  
5 for the entry by a second editor.